B. <u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>

Claims 1 –27 have been cancelled without prejudice.

28. (Previously presented) A method of regenerating meniscal tissue in a joint of an animal, comprising:

injecting into said joint a liquid suspension consisting essentially of mesenchymal stem cells and an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier, whereby said mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into and/or stimulate production of meniscal tissue, and wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are injected in an amount effective to regenerate meniscal tissue in a joint of an animal.

- 29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said pharmaceutical carrier comprises hyaluronan or a salt thereof.
- 30. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 29 wherein said hyaluronan or salt thereof is sodium hyaluronate. hyaluronan.
- 31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said injection is into the joint space of said joint.
- 32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said joint is selected from the group consisting of knee joints, and the temporal mandibular joint.
- 33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are autologous to the recipient.
- 34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are allogeneic to the recipient.
- 35. (Previously presented) A method of repairing meniscal damage in a joint, comprising:

injecting into said joint a liquid suspension consisting essentially of mesenchymal stem cells and an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier, whereby said mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into and/or stimulate production of meniscal tissue, said mesenchymal stem cells being injected in an amount effective to repair said meniscal damage in said joint.

- 36. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said pharmaceutical carrier comprises hyaluronan or a salt thereof.
- 37. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 36 wherein said hyaluronan or salt thereof is sodium hyaluronate. hyaluronan.
- 38. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said injection is into the joint space of said joint.
- 39. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said joint is selected from the group consisting of knee joints, and the temporal mandibular joint.
- 40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are autologous to the recipient.
- 41. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are allogeneic to the recipient.
- 42. (Previously presented) A method of preventing or reducing subchondral bone sclerosis in a joint, comprising:

injecting into said joint a liquid suspension consisting essentially of mesenchymal stem cells and an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier, whereby said mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into and/or stimulate production of meniscal tissue and, wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are injected in an amount effective to prevent or reduce subchondral bone sclerosis in a joint.

- 43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said pharmaceutical carrier comprises hyaluronan or a salt thereof.
- 44. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 43 wherein said hyaluronan or salt thereof is sodium hyaluronate. hyaluronan.
- 45. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said injection is into the joint space of said joint.
- 46. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said joint is selected from the group consisting of knee joints, and the temporal mandibular joint.
- 47. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are autologous to the recipient.
- 48. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are allogeneic to the recipient.
- 49. (Previously presented) A method of preventing or reducing the formation of osteophytes in a joint, comprising:

injecting into said joint a liquid suspension consisting essentially of mesenchymal stem cells and an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier, whereby said mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into and/or stimulate production of meniscal tissue, and wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are injected in an amount effective to prevent or reduce the formation of osteophytes in a joint.

- 50. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said pharmaceutical carrier comprises hyaluronan or a salt thereof.
- 51. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 50 wherein said hyaluronan or salt thereof is sodium hyaluronate. hyaluronan.

- 52. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said injection is into the joint space of said joint.
- 53. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said joint is selected from the group consisting of knee joints, and the temporal mandibular joint.
- 54. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are autologous to the recipient.
- 55. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are allogeneic to the recipient.
- 56. (Previously presented) A method of protecting cartilage in a joint of an animal, comprising:

stem cells and an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier, whereby said mesenchymal stem cells differentiate into and/or stimulate production of meniscal tissue adjacent said cartilage, and wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are injected in an amount effective to protect cartilage in a joint of an animal.

- 57. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said pharmaceutical carrier comprises hyaluronan or a salt thereof.
- 58. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 57 wherein said hyaluronan or salt thereof is sodium hyaluronate. hyaluronan.
- 59. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said injection is into the joint space of said joint.
- 60 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said joint is selected from the group consisting of knee joints and the temporal mandibular joint.

- 61. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are autologous to the recipient.
- 62. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are allogeneic to the recipient.
- 63. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^4 cells to about 1.5×10^8 cells.
- 64. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 63 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^5 cells to about 1×10^8 cells.
- 65. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 64 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^6 cells to about 1×10^7 cells.
- 66. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^4 cells to about 1.5×10^8 cells.
- 67. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 66 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^5 cells to about 1×10^8 cells.
- 68. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 67 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from 1×10^6 cells to about 1×10^7 cells.
- 69. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 42 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^4 cells to about 1.5×10^8 cells.
- 70. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 69 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^5 cells to about 1×10^8 cells.
- 71. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^6 cells to about 1×10^7 cells.

- 72. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 49 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^4 cells to about 1.5×10^8 cells.
- 73. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 72 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^5 cells to about 1×10^8 cells.
- 74. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 73 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^6 cells to about 1×10^7 cells.
- 75. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 56 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^4 cells to about 1.5×10^8 cells.
- 76. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 75 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^5 cells to about 1×10^8 cells.
- 77. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 76 wherein said mesenchymal stem cells are present in said liquid suspension in an amount of from about 1×10^6 cells to about 1×10^7 cells.